



Rich History, Bright Future
Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland

News Release

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CONTACT: [Vivian D. Laxton](#)
Communications Director, 301-600-1315

STATEMENT FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE GARDNER ON AURORA LAWSUIT

Over the past year and a half, I have heard from many citizens who were distraught and angry over the sale of Citizens Rehabilitation Center and the Montevue Home. These facilities have a long and proud history of providing services to people in Frederick County. Frederick County believes in taking care of our own, especially our indigent seniors. As the senior population in Frederick County grows, we know the public need for assisted living services for our seniors will continue to grow.

Not only was the deal with Aurora a bad deal for our seniors, it was a bad deal for Frederick County taxpayers for many reasons. The sale price was \$8 million less than what the county paid for the state-of-the-art facilities. Even the lease rate is below market rental rates. The county agreed to pay taxes and maintenance for Aurora rather than offer a standard lease where the lessee absorbs these costs. In addition, the County is paying more for the cost of care for the indigent elderly who remain in Montevue.

At the end of the day, retaining Citizens and Montevue is about serving people. As County Executive I am committed to protecting the taxpayers from bad financial deals. At the same time, I live up to our community's long standing commitment to take care of our elderly.

I remain hopeful that the County can negotiate a comprehensive settlement with Aurora. If that effort fails, I will acquire Aurora's interest in the lease. This move is, in effect, the same as a landlord breaking a lease with his tenant and buying out his interest in the lease. The County owns the land and the facilities today. My intent is to keep ownership. The use of eminent domain is to pay out the fair market value of the lease.

I remain optimistic that a mediated solution can be reached.

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